

# THE DC GAZETTE

50¢

MARCH 1975

A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CITY



Paper is  
property, too.  
A plan to tax it.

The dispute over  
teachers' hours.

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# DC GAZETTE

VOL VI NR 3 MARCH 1975

## DC EYE

**CRIME MOUNTING** Most uncovered story of the month: the fact that crime is mounting at a dramatic pace. December figures show crime up 16-45% over last year in the city's seven police districts. Crimes against persons has mounted in every district except the Third which covers Adams-Morgan, Dupont Circle and part of Shaw. Upper NE showed only a small increase in crimes against persons over December 1973 but elsewhere the figures were up from 12% to a startling 73% increase in violent crime in Anacostia.

**PLATES AND PLAQUES** If you want a low-number license plate, you better get to your city council member fast. . . Sorry, you weren't quite fast enough. Well, as a consolation prize, ask to be put on one of the 13 council advisory committees on advisory neighborhood councils. Each ward and at-large member gets to establish one of these and each committee gets to select two persons to be on a citywide task force that will advise the city council's special committee on advisory councils as to what the advisory committees on advisory councils think. Willie Hardy had her committee set up even before the council had voted for the multiple-committee approach. She named twenty-one persons to her committee, including a couple of political opponents, brought them all down to the city council chamber where she introduced each with a word of praise ("a hard-working Democrat," "Mr. Afro in Far NE"), had them swear to an oath she had composed in which they promised to provide full educational and information services about the NCS, then presented each with a framed certificate of appointment and had them shake hands with Sterling Tucker and the at-large members of the council.

**IKE CENTER COMES TO LIFE** The Board of Trade and Sterling Tucker are gearing up for another push to build the Eisenhower Convention Center. Under the headline, "Hoffman Vows Drive for Ike Center," the February issue of the Board of Trade News reports that "With an estimated 500 of his business colleagues, area government leaders and members of Congress looking on, the immediate past President of the Board of Trade, Edwin K. Hoffman, vowed to personally lead the Board campaign to win local citizen support for the proposed downtown Eisenhower Civic Center." Tucker mentioned reviving the center idea in a recent television appearance.

**DEPRESSION SONGS FOR FORD** The Bread & Roses Music Collective has sent President Ford a free gift certificate for the New Lost City Ramblers' "Songs of the Depression," a collection from the thirties. The only condition is that Ford has to come for the record in person; the collective is afraid of the crime around the White House.

## Taxing paper property

JONATHAN ROWE

THE opinion is building in the District that the sales tax on food must be repealed. In addition, there are pressing needs in a number of areas for which the elected city council will be asked to provide. A property tax on intangible property would more than make up the revenue that would be lost from repealing the food tax, and it would provide millions of additional dollars to help meet the other needs. The tax would affect only those taxpayers most able to pay, it would be easy to administer, and it would bring numerous beneficial side effects.

What is an intangible property tax? It is a tax on paper property — stocks, bonds, franchises and the like. Originally, property taxes included all kinds of property — real estate, business equipment and machinery, inventories, stocks and bonds, everything. But the tax has been riddled with so many loopholes that today real estate bears most of the burden. An intangible property tax would simply spread the burden around, in keeping with the original intent of the property tax.

Why the city needs an intangible property tax: (1) The District needs the revenue it would raise.

(2) It is fair. How can we continue to tax the homes people live in, the food they eat and the wages they earn and not tax the stocks and bonds of wealthier taxpayers who are much more able to pay, especially when the income these people receive when they sell these stocks and bonds already gets favored treatment under current tax laws?

(3) It will decrease the pressure on the city to encourage speculative increases in the value of real estate in order to increase property tax revenues.

(4) It is practical. Nationally, well over half of all the property in the US consists of intangibles. The value of privately held corporate stocks alone has been increasing at twice the pace of real estate. The city cannot afford to let such a rich source of property tax revenues go completely to waste when its low and middle income taxpayers are so overburdened and when the district has so many pressing needs to meet.

Who would pay the tax? The intangible property tax would be paid almost entirely by the wealthiest taxpayers who can most afford it. In 1971 around 90% of the families in the US making \$10,000 a year or less owned no stocks or bonds, while 68% of those families making over \$25,000 a year did hold such property.

Intangible property is uniquely the property of the rich. Over 70% of all corporate stock in the US is held by the wealthiest 1% of the population.

Moreover, these people are already favored by unjust tax loopholes. When stocks or bonds are sold, the owner pays a special "capital gains" rate that is only one-half that which working people pay on their earnings. The interest from state and local bonds is completely exempt and millionaires regularly in hundreds of thousands of dollars each year that is completely tax free because of this loophole.

Thus the intangible property tax would help plug up some of the worst loopholes and inequities in the tax system. Generous exemptions could protect those middle and lower income people owning stocks and bonds from suffering an unjust burden.

How much would the tax raise? A rough and conservative estimate, based on IRS data suggests that a tax on intangible property just one-fifth the rate applied to real estate would have yielded over \$21 million in 1972. This is more than three times what the food tax now raises. The estimate, moreover, does not include the intangible property of trusts and estates. Nor does it include state and local bonds.

How would the tax work? The intangible property tax could work in a number of ways; the details are not important here. In essence the tax would be based upon the income from the property, either in dividends or interest, or on profits from being sold. The necessary data is largely available already on DC and federal income tax returns (to which the DC Department of Revenue has access).

This method would not make the intangibles tax just a part of the income tax. When property tax assessors value office

buildings, apartment buildings and the like for property taxes, they base their estimates on the income this real estate yields. Thus intangible property would be treated in much the same way as income-producing real estate.

The tax would primarily include stocks, bonds, franchises and other common types of intangible property. It could also include interest from savings accounts and certificates of deposit; provided there were a generous exemption for small taxpayers. In fact, this exemption could apply only to savings accounts in institutions which reinvest at least a certain percentage of their deposits backing into the city. In this way the intangibles tax could help stop the flow of mortgage money out of DC, and help make more money available for homes and businesses here in the city.

Do other places have such a tax? As mentioned, intangibles were included originally in the property taxes of most states and are still on the books in at least 20 states, although not always enforced. Florida is a state that successfully administers an intangibles tax and several years ago Connecticut instituted an intangibles tax that raised \$70 million the first year with little administrative effort. (The next year a Republican administration came in and repealed the tax.)

In addition, nine states compensate for the lack of property taxes on intangibles through special income taxes. Ohio, Michigan, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Colorado are among these states. Massachusetts, for example, taxes income from intangibles at 9% while taxing earned income at only 5%.

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are two cities which have intangible property taxes to help pay for public schools.

#### OBJECTIONS TO THE TAX

The tax on intangibles discriminates against people who own this kind of property: First the current property tax discriminates in favor of people who invest in paper property and against those in real estate. In addition, the income tax discriminates in favor of people who buy and sell pieces of paper and against people who work for a living. The intangible property tax will simply put owners of intangible property on a equal footing with owners of real estate. So doing, it will encourage more investment in real estate in the city. This investment, if properly channelled, would result in needed jobs, housing, and small business facilities for DC residents.

Second, intangible property would still be taxed at a lower rate than would real estate.

And third, the owners of intangible property are those persons most able to pay taxes. And they are the people who are most able to take advantage of loopholes in other taxes. So it is hardly unfair to tax them.

The intangible property tax subjects the owners of intangible property to "double taxation." Opponents of intangibles taxes always drag this argument out. It goes like this: intangible property supposedly just stands for physical property. For example, a share of stock just stands for the physical assets of a corporation. Since these assets supposedly are already subject to property taxes, taxing the stock is taxing the same property twice.

The double taxation argument is full of fallacies. For example, stock does not stand just for physical assets. It also stands for intangible corporate assets such as patents, good will and the like. Even much physical corporate property is ex-

## Some tax reforms for DC

1. Increase the progressivity of the DC income tax.
2. End the sales tax on food and drugs.
3. Institute a property tax on intangibles based on a surtax on unearned income from stocks, bonds, interest etc - with a generous exemption for the small taxpayer.
4. Institute a personal property tax on such items as furniture, art and jewelry using the insured value as a basis for taxation.
5. Institute a property tax on businesses not covered by the intangibles tax i.e. unincorporated businesses, professional offices and partnerships. Again, the surtax on income approach is the simplest.
6. Liberalize the protection given homeowners against sudden increases in property taxes that permits them to defer some of the increase until time of sale.
7. Require that the true ownership of all property in DC be a matter of public record and that all owners of property file with the city a list of all property in which they have an interest.
8. With the information obtained from the above, assess property taxes at a progressive rate, with a higher rate for those who own more property.
9. Institute a speculation tax on properties held for less than three years. Vermont has such a tax. For example, property held for one year is subject to a gains tax of 30%. - S.S.

## Speed-up on councils

The city council is moving swiftly to complete its work on neighborhood councils--so swiftly in fact that citizen involvement may be severely limited. The present schedule calls for preliminary reports from ward committees by March 7, the establishment of the councils' structures by March 30 and decisions on council and district member boundaries by April 30. Petitions for council candidates would be available on July 14 for a November 4 election.

Since the law requires that the election of councils be held at the same time as the board elections, the November 4 target is an important one. Nonetheless, the council seems to be jamming up its action at the wrong end of the time available.

For example, doing away with the need for petitions would give the council much more time to decide all the important questions that remain concerning the NC's. Petitions seem superfluous since NC members will represent constituencies of only a couple of thousands. Surely there is room on the ballot for everyone who wants to run in such a small constituency.

Another problem is the requirement that Congress have 30 legislative days in which to consider plans for the NCs. This in fact could mean a couple of months. Yet as Dave Clarke pointed out, the city council could go ahead with plans on the assumption that the councils would be approved.

There are a growing number of sources of information on NC's. There is the DC Project on Community Legal Assistance and Street Law (624-8235) which has prepared a fact sheet on the councils. The information is useful but fails to provide details on the councils' potential as neighborhood governments. A broad-based ad hoc group under the leadership of the Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Assn. (737-3700) may prove to be less political than the committees set up by the council members. For information from those who have had experience with neighborhood councils talk to the Adams Morgan Organization (332-2628). Some of the best work on neighborhood councils as governing rather than merely an advisory bodies has been done by Anton Wood who can be reached at 676-6904.

empt from property taxes under special loopholes. Studies have shown that double taxation could occur at most with only about one-fifth of all intangible property.

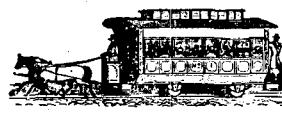
Besides, double taxation occurs all the time. We tax the wages people earn and then we tax them again when they are spent for food and other necessities. We tax real estate and also the income it produces for the owner. What's so special about the owners of intangible property?

The intangible property tax is unworkable because this property is too easy to hide from the assessor. This objection may have had some validity 50 years ago, but today it has none. DC and federal income tax returns already provide much of the necessary data and if more is needed it would be simple to include a special intangible property tax schedule with the DC income tax forms. There is no reason why there would be any more cheating on intangibles than there is on other taxes.

A property tax on intangibles would cause wealthy people to move out of the District. This argument is always raised to scare public officials away from taxes that affect the wealthy. It doesn't wash. First, the tax wouldn't be heavy enough to make it worthwhile for people to move out just to avoid it. Second, the wealthy people who paid the tax could deduct these payments from their federal income taxes, so the tax would actually be a way of getting more revenue sharing out of the federal government. Finally, by ending the property tax against real estate, it would actually encourage people to put money into real estate in the District as opposed to putting it into stocks and bonds.

The intangibles tax would unfairly burden elderly widows and other needy people who depend on small investments for their subsistence. And it would unfairly burden ordinary people with small savings accounts. As previously mentioned, the vast bulk of intangible property is owned by the very wealthiest people and a generous exemption would protect any who clip coupons for their subsistence. Similarly, the exemption for savings accounts would protect the modest savings of small taxpayers while making more mortgage money available.

Jonathan Rowe is with the Tax Reform Research Group, a Nader operation located at 133 C SE, Capitol Hill. The organization publishes an excellent newsletter, *People & Taxes*. For more information call 544-1710.



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# REPORT CARD

## The dispute over teacher hours

ANNE CHASE

Teachers in the DC School system have been working under a contract that expired last March 31. On February 5th of this year the school board terminated the extended contract. The union and the board had been unable to come to an agreement on the terms of the new contract. The union membership voted on February 12, to authorize a strike whenever the union leadership saw fit to call one. As usual the citizens of DC are left wondering how this situation came about and why it was not averted.

To understand this imbroglio it is necessary to go back to 1971 when the Washington Teachers' Union negotiated its last contract. At that time it signed an agreement known as "Letter of Understanding Number 4" which provided that "The Board and the Union, recognizing the benefits that can accrue to students through a longer school year and school day, accept the principle that increased services should be related to increased compensation. Therefore, the parties agree that a longer school year and day will be negotiated when additional compensation is enacted." This letter is important because, up until home rule went into effect, teacher pay was set by Congress, not by the city. The basis of most labor negotiations is the trade-off; we'll give you this if you give us that. Since the all-essential power of the purse was held by Congress, the Board of Education had no bargaining position with which to force the question of extra time.

According to people associated with the board in 1971, the administration did not push the matter of a longer school day when the new contract was negotiated because the discussions occurred just six months before a school board election, and the members were at odds with the board president. On the other hand the executive board of the teachers' union was extremely aggressive and well organized.

The Board of Education took the position that they did not want any additional salary increases enacted by Congress until the question of a longer school day was settled.

Martha Swaim, who was on the board at that time, stated that teachers' union president William Simon insisted at monthly meetings with the board that a salary increase would have to come before any discussions of extra time could take place.

The first increase the DC teachers received after agreeing to discussions of a longer day was enacted in October 1972, a month before the national elections. The school board was involved in a search for a new superintendent that lasted nearly a year. Swaim characterized it as "not an ideal time for the board to press discussions on the administration." By the time Barbara Sizemore was selected as superintendent, and the school board was able to devote its attention to the question of a longer school day and teacher compensation, the teachers' pay had been increased by 12%.

According to present and past members of the school board, the union has refused to negotiate a longer teaching day, on the grounds that the letter of understanding is not a proper subject for discussion. In public,

(Please turn to page 6)

## Some call it PACTS, others call it chaos

ARIANA CLARKE

Take the administrators of the DC public school system, the teachers, the students, the parents and the community at large, jumble them up, put them together and what do you have? Some call it PACTS; others call it chaos.

PACTS is "a process" involving parents, administrators, community, teachers, and students (hence the acronym) in making decisions and setting goals for the schools.

"Our belief is that everyone has something to contribute," said Al Gaskins, one of the PACTS office coordinators. "Schools are not educating students to survive the future. PACTS is a response to this need for improved education."

School Superintendent Barbara Sizemore stated in her 120 Day Report that community involvement should improve "the way local schools are administered. PACTS is an attempt to respond to several demands: demand for inclusion, demand for accountability, demand for improved educational offerings and results."

Despite the efforts of the PACTS office since it opened in November 1973 several problems prevail. There is the lack of a communication system to inform and educate the community about PACTS. "No one has explained it well enough," said a spokesman for the D.C. Citizens for Better Public Education. "The PACTS office ought to be reporting more to the public."

"We have announcements on WOL Radio and fliers," Gaskins said. "And we have had two major workshops, in March and August, that have facilitated communications on the process. There is still a lot of work to be done. We are presently working on a PACTS booklet which will contain the ideology sought, strategies for implementation, and suggested areas of work."

Varied opinions exist among those who do know about PACTS. Some groups view PACTS as a threat. "Whatever the PACTS office is doing the P.T.A. could do." Aletha Campbell, a PTA president says. "The PTA is out there and we know what is going on."

The involvement of everyone is basic to the PACTS concept, but Gaskins explained that "People are naturally resistant to change, they feel threatened by anything new."

The organization of so many fragmented groups is one of PACTS's structural problems. Some doubt that it is possible to bring these groups together; others are concerned by the lack of guidelines and models, especially for the PACTS approach of decisions by consensus.

"How does the administration expect the community to get together and reach decision by consensus when the board and the superintendent who should be acting as models, don't set any kind of example?" an administrative official commented.

Ann Chisholm of the United Planning Organization which worked with PACTS office on the August workshop, explained, "These conflicts have shaken the confidence of the community. Parents are concerned because their children cannot read while Sizemore and the board are bickering. Many people like the idea of a PACTS but why should they get involved in more confusion? They think PACTS will be just another advisory council that has no real effect."

Nevertheless many parents have vocally supported PACTS. "It is the best thing that has happened to this community," stated Ms. Geraldine Jackson at a Ward V community board meeting. She and many others were distraught over the board's Feb. 3 vote to transfer PACTS office funding to Schedule VI (including new and improved services) in the FY' 76 budget. Three new positions were added to the present five and a request for \$417,000 was put forth. With current budget problems, Schedule VI would most likely be cut back. Both Sizemore and Gaskins feel that funds will be found despite this threat.

Yet another problem threatens PACTS.

The organization of the citizens into a PACTS is being sabotaged according to James Curry and Michael Gallion, coordinators of Concerned Citizens for Social Improvement. They believe that some regional superintendents and principals feel threatened by an organized community.

"Administrators have many methods of sabotaging PACTS. Some of these are: delusive reports of PACTS meetings sent to Sizemore, selecting supportive people for a so-called PACTS meeting, buying off certain people or getting them out of the way with other jobs, calling publicly unannounced meetings and refusing information on them. Some administrators don't even worry because they know that without some form of leadership people will only come to a few meetings and then go away angry and disillusioned."

Curry continued: "Community members were called to attend board meetings to support PACTS because this is the only way we can be heard by the administration. The administration wants chaos. There is a lot of money in confusion. Building problems don't get fixed because people are receiving kickbacks. This system is a mess and it ought to be exposed."

But Curry added with a smile; "I am a great optimist. I believe PACTS will work, and I'll give it all my time. It is our only hope."

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## Latinos get cold shoulder

SIMPATIA NOVALE

In spite of the 2-inch headlines: "City Hiring More Spanish-Speaking," a recent Pipeline, the publication of the Mayor's Office, the hard data tell us otherwise.

The "more" to which the Pipeline referred are 10 women hired as clerks at GS-2 levels on a temporary basis under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA).

Since August 9, 1971 when the Mayor first proclaimed a stepped-up effort to hire more latinos, the net result is 28 less latinos employed in city government.

In 1971, 263 latinos were employed by the city (.6% of the total District work force.);

In 1972, 266 latinos worked for the city (still .6% of the total);

In 1973, 213 latinos still held jobs with the City (.5% of the total).

Just recently, someone discovered that 25 persons designated as latino were actually of Asian origin—well, after all, they all do look alike.

In 1973, 18 of the 40 D.C. departments examined had no latino employees at all: 11 of the 22 with latino employees had lost latino staff; one, in particular, the Office of Personnel, lost its only latino employee.

Moreover, we have no figures on other than the 10 women recently hired as to how many of those now employed are temporary.

In October 1973 the Spanish-Speaking Program was instituted with each agency required to name a coordinator. Nearly half of the coordinators are neither latino nor Spanish speaking.

The latino recently named as SSP coordinator for the Office of Human Rights—which should be at least a GS-11 position—has been hired, in spite of having the necessary Civil Service rating, at the GS-5 level and also as a CETA temporary. This person must deal with coordinators of higher GS rank.

In short, the outlook for latinos in D.C. government is that more Spanish-speaking are being hired, but as temporary labor, and that much has to be done even to regain the job levels of three years ago.

*Algunas injusticias perpetradas por el Gobierno del Distrito de Columbia son tan flagrantes que editorializarlas y analizarlas llega a ser una cosa superflua. Los hechos en relación al empleo de los latinos, constituyen muy ilustrativo.*

*A pesar del gran titular de dos pulgadas de ancho: "D.C. Emplea Más Latinos", en el reciente Pipeline, una publicación mensual de la Oficina del Alcalde, las crudas estadísticas nos dicen otra cosa muy diferente.*

*La gran noticia en el Pipeline se refiere a 10 mujeres empleadas como oficinistas al bajo nivel GS-2 y temporalmente bajo la "Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA).*

*Desde agosto 9, 1971, cuando el Alcalde anuncio por*

## Watching the watchers

THE word that the police have been spying on local activists comes as no news to local activists. Neither does it surprise them that the agents operated on such informed premises as the thought that Tina Hobson might constitute a dangerous socialist influence on her husband. Police informers and agent provocateurs, like those who swipe welfare checks out of mail boxes or who put razor blades in apples for Halloween, come from the human crossroads of instability, inmaturity and, most particularly, ignorance. In fact, stupidity is often the strongest bond between informer and police official.

But ignorance is no defense of the law enforcer or of police sneaks and the city council has moved with proper anger to find out details of the police activities. A letter was sent last month (only Sterling Tucker refused to sign it) from council members to Walter Washington demanding full information. We suspect they will be less than successful. While Maurice Cullinane was playing innocent, council member Dave Clarke released a document that showed that a police informer was used not only to watch radicals but, wonders of wonders, to infiltrate the home rule movement. Lord knows what else they were watching or whether they engaged in any of the more exotic forms of police politics such as break-ins, bombings and the like.

Whether we'll ever know is another matter. Like a witness who has committed perjury, the police's record of prevarication lends no credibility to any of the current protestations of propriety or promises of the same. We will have to depend, as we have in the past, upon information from other sources, which at best gives only a flavor of the police penchant for interference in democratic procedures. And activists will continue to take precautions that would be unnecessary if the police viewed their responsibility as the protection of the public rather than its control.

*primera vez dar un paso adelante en el esfuerzo por emplear mas latinos, los resultados netos en las fechas son 28 latinos menos empleados por el gobierno municipal.*

*En 1971, habian 261 latinos empleados por el Gobierno del D.C. (0.6% del total de trabajadores del Distrito);*

*En 1972, habian 266 latinos empleados (aun 0.6% del total)*

*En 1973, habian 213 latinos empleados en el D.C. (0.5% del total).*

*Ahora recientemente, alguien descubrio que 25 personas designadas como latinos eran asiaticos. Bien, todas las personas minorias se parecen.*

*En 1973, 18 de los 40 departamentos del Distrito examinados, no tenian ni siguiera un latino empleado; 11 de los 22 departamentos con empleados latinos perdieron algunos*

(Please turn to page 9)

### TEACHERS CONTINUED

Simons' quotes are contradictory. He was quoted in the Washington Post as saying the union would accept the extra 45 minutes if there was additional compensation. In a telephone interview with the Gazette, he explained that 11% more time must be rewarded with 11% more compensation. The school board says that pay raises of 12% by September 1973 and 13% in September 1974 are additional compensation as mentioned by the letter of understanding. Simons argues that these increases are cost of living increases, and the board must offer compensation over and above the 25% raise.

School board members say that they have offered to submit the question of the letter of understanding, i.e. the meaning of "compensation" and the two salary increases (or cost of living increases), to arbitration under which both parties must agree to abide by the decision of the arbitrator in advance. Board member Raymond Kemp stated, "If they've got a case about the cost of living increase issue, why won't they submit it to arbitration? If they are right, it gets us off the hook."

In the last set of negotiations the union asked the board to drop the entire question of the letter of understanding, which would void the earlier agreement made to extend the working day, let an arbitrator decide which issues should go to public factfinding, and reinstate the contract. After the school board cancelled the contract to push the discussions to a resolution, 29 teachers were suspended and the lack of a contract became an issue.

The school board offered to go to fact finding

when contract negotiations stalled in May 1974 and the union refused. At that time the House District Committee was considering a teacher pay increase. Congressman Ron Dellums, chairman of the education subcommittee of the District Committee, was concerned over the effect a salary increase would have had on the collective bargaining procedure. He delayed the pay raise hearings for a week in order that the parties might settle the contract. He also met with the federal mediator, the school board and the union to help move the talks along. Due to the pressure of House business, and the impending impeachment hearings, the teacher pay raises were combined with the firemen and police salary adjustment bills and passed into law in September. Had this not been done, District Committee staff members say. Congress could not have passed the legislation at all in the 93rd session.

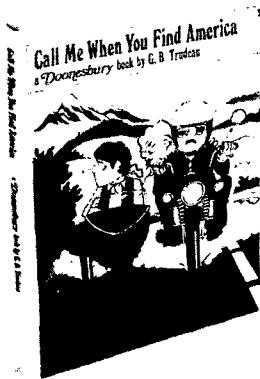
Board members have felt that the question of pay for increased time cannot be discussed in a vacuum. They point to the salaries received and hours worked by teachers in surrounding jurisdictions. As of January, DC teachers work a shorter week (32.5 hours), have a shorter school year (186 days) and receive a higher salary (\$9,940 at entry) than teachers in the surrounding communities. Many parents have expressed little sympathy for the union because of this. At other schools parents are holding rallies in support of teachers.

(Thanks to the D.C. Citizens for Better Public Education for the background material used in the article.)

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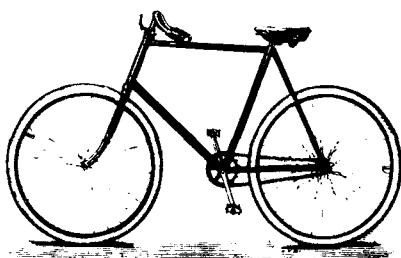
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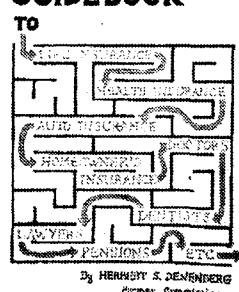
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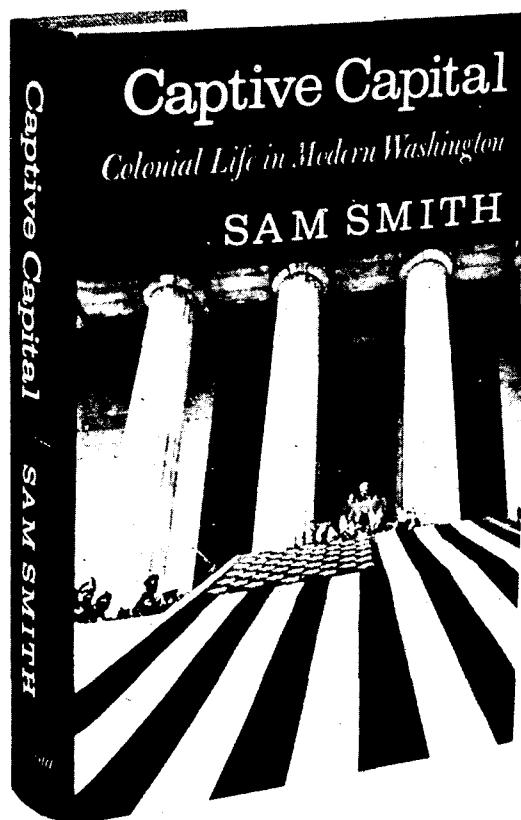
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# THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

USE ORDER BLANK ON PAGE SEVEN

WE HAVE PUBLISHED our fourth annual Gazette Guide to the city and this one is better than ever. Now on top of the traditional listing of local organizations and media, we've added a general information section including basic census data; information on race, housing and taxes; a bibliography of books about DC; results of past elections; and maps of ward boundaries, taxi zones, zip code areas, service areas and the racial and political composition of the city. No wonder a local utility ordered 18 copies the day after this edition came out. A local law school bought 250 copies. A college professor got 70 for his students. \$2 each.

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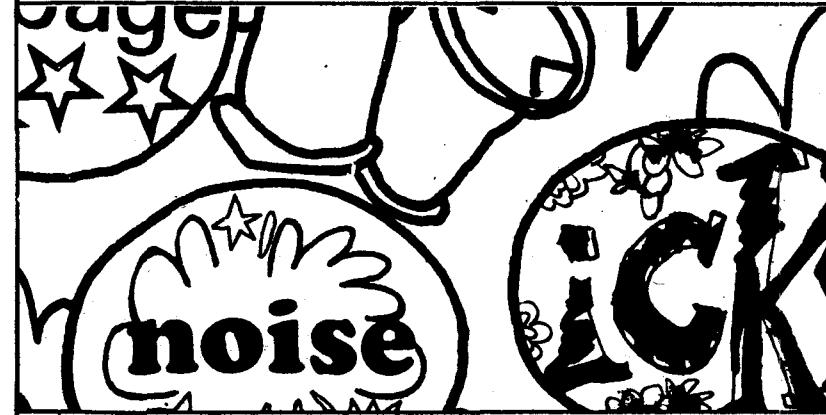
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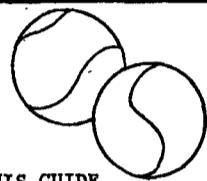
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### LATINOS CONTINUED

*de ellos; uno en particular, la Oficina de Personal del Distrito, perdió su único latino empleado!*

*Además, nosotros no tenemos datos sobre cuantos de los empleados latinos son solamente temporeros a excepción de las 10 mujeres empleadas ultimamente.*

*En octubre 2, 1973, el Spanish -Speaking Program (SSP) fue instituido y se le exigió a cada agencia (Commissioner Memorandum 73-159) nombrar un coordinador. Puesto que los coordinadores son responsables de aumentar las oportunidades de empleo para sus hermanos latinos, uno tendría que decir que ellos han fracasado miserablemente. Pero, la verdad es que los coordinadores SSP tienen que hacer sus deberes en el programa además de su trabajo regular. Y, increíble como parzca, cerca de la mitad de los coordinadores no son latinos ni hablan una palabra de español.*

*La persona latina recientemente nombrada coordinador de la Oficina de Derechos Humanos, enlace entre los coordinadores SSP y el Gobierno Distrital, al menos una posición de GS-11, ha sido empleada, a pesar de tener la necesaria clasificación de la Comisión de Servicio Civil y de tener una probada experiencia, a un nivel GS-5. Sin embargo, esta persona debe tratar con coordinadores que tienen una mucho más alta clasificación, una versión del truco, divide y conquista.*

*La perspectiva para los latinos es que más latinos están siendo empleados pero solo temporalmente y que mucho aun se tiene que hacer para siquiera ganar el nivel de empleo de hace tres años.*

### SCHOOL COST JUMPS

The bizarre city public works spending policies added a new chapter when word came last month that the projected cost of the Coolidge High modernization project had gone up 40% (from \$11 to \$18 million) in one year despite deletion from the plans of an indoor pool. Inflation isn't that bad.

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## Half a loaf, half a loaf, onward...

THE HALF-A-LOAF GANG is at it again. The home rule folks, instead of turning their heads towards full self-government in the form of statehood, are gearing up a campaign for a constitutional amendment that would give the city two senators and two representatives. As a fallback position (a liberal's favorite position), the home rulers will go for an additional nonvoting delegate or so.

While the constitutional amendment giving us voting representation in Congress has appeal, it is fraught with problems. Among them:

- It begs the question of full self-government. It gives us the trappings of the state without its power. The senators and representatives would be second class members of Congress and residents here would remain second class citizens.

- The constitutional amendment would require not only a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress but ratification by three-quarters of the states. This process could take up to seven years after approval by Congress with perhaps less likelihood of success than statehood, which could be granted by majority vote of Congress and the signature of the President.

- The constitutional amendment, depending upon its wording, could actually preclude statehood without still another amendment. Such an amendment must be opposed if it fails to protect the option of statehood.

- Even with such protection, the amendment approach is undesirable since it diverts the energy of people away from the basic need for full equality towards gaining the cosmetic exterior of power without the substance.

## How drugs get priced

D.C. PIRG has released results of three prescription drug pricing surveys and has begun a campaign for mandatory price posting.

An April 1974 survey priced twenty capsules of Ornade at eighteen area drugstores. Prices quoted varied from \$2.56 to \$4.70. Telephone follow-ups and second visits indicated within-store price inconsistencies in seven out of eighteen stores. In three instances price quotes varied by more than \$1.00.

In May 1974 prescriptions for twenty-four tablets of Actifed were purchased in twenty-eight stores scattered throughout the District. The identical prescription was filled three times at each store by a white, a black and a Spanish-speaking volunteer. Prices between stores varied from \$1.43 to \$3.50 or 245%. Eighteen of the twenty-eight were found to be inconsistent in their own prices with discrepancies of up to 80¢ at the same store. Further seven stores charged Spanish and/or black volunteers more than white volunteers.

In June 1974 prescriptions for thirty-six tablets of Aldactazide were priced at twenty-seven stores, first over the phone and then in person. The purpose was to determine the accuracy and availability of phone price quotes. Twelve stores quoted lower prices by phone, in one instance \$2.00 lower. Only four stores gave phone prices identical to what the surveyor was quoted in person.

The survey also revealed excessive waiting times to get prescriptions filled at several Peoples Drug stores. In some instances the patient was required to wait up to six hours for a prescription. D.C. PIRG has filed a complaint with the D.C. Board of Pharmacy in regard to this problem.

On the basis of the research results, D.C. PIRG recommended City Council action to require prescription drug price-posting.

## A new citizens' assembly

JOSEPH DAVIS, City Wide Housing Coalition

DC is the first city that has a citizens' body working with city officials in planning the use of federal housing funds coming into the city.

Under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and regulations issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, communities applying for funds must certify that they have afforded citizens "adequate opportunity" to participate in the development of the fund application. Last year, after DC was allotted \$42.6 million in FY 1975 for housing and community development, public hearings were scheduled. People who had been in the housing game for a long time however, saw immediately that only token representation was to be allowed them. On October 5, at the first hearing, the citizens walked out en masse.

The housing groups that walked out founded a nucleus under the leadership of the City Wide Housing Coalition, a large coalition that had led housing rights battles in the past. A step-by-step campaign was developed to give citizens a part of the action.

About this time the city, in conjunction with the DC Bicentennial Commission, set up meetings at libraries and police stations to elect delegates to work on its "advisory committee." But the new group would have none of that; too often they had read documents and blueprints way into the night only to have the city do what it wanted.

Instead they set about electing delegates of their own to work with the Mayor's Task Force and Steering Committee.

After numerous stormy meetings at the libraries, police stations and in the District Building, the city's intransigence collapsed, and a Citizens Assembly was formed.

The new body is made up of the 16 elected representatives together with 42 other people from organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Greater Washington Council of Churches, DC Black Assembly and the Greater Washington Labor Council.

Its first achievement was winning a delay in submitting the funding proposal to H.U.D. Prior to the formation of the Assembly, the city had tried to railroad its plan through before Jan. 2 when the new elected City Council would take office. It will now be submitted just prior to April 15, the deadline for submittal, giving the Assembly some time to take out some of the lumps.

Principal improvement to the proposal has been the introduction of clarity and sharper delineation of what is to be done. The representatives have made some gains in relocation policy, giving some redress to businesses and people who will be relocated.

The Assembly, however, was not able to make a significant dent on the most offensive part of the city's plan--the demolition of several 100 houses and small businesses, and the purchase of land so developers could come in and build expensive housing.

Despite this and other weak and offensive parts in the plan, the Assembly has done a creditable job. Hopefully, it is here to stay and its influence will lead to a step-by-step plan that will give the people of this city adequate and decent housing for a change.

## IMPORTANT BILLS

### BEFORE THE COUNCIL

#### IMPORTANT GOOD BILLS

- A BILL abolishing all city commissions, boards and committees except those specifically exempted. The bill requires that except for bodies of regional concern all committee/commission members must be DC residents. At the present time, the city has numerous superfluous bodies and control of commission procedures is lax. Introduced by Nadine Winter and others.

- A BILL requiring deposits on beverage containers. This is the model COG bill and a good one except that it does not go into effect until all suburban jurisdictions have approved a similar measure. Introduced by Polly Shackleton. Referred to Environment Committee.

- A BILL to have the city pay for all water main repairs under streets and on private property abutting streets. It also provides for reimbursement of citizens up to \$5000 for charges for repairs during the past seven years. Also requires a report on the lead pipe hazard in the DC water system. Introduced by Arrington Dixon. To Environment Committee.

- A BILL to establish an identification card that citizens can use to state their willingness to have their organs donated for medical purposes in case of death. Introduced by Jerry Moore. To Transportation Committee.

- A BILL to establish CATV franchise in the city. This is a 60-page complex bill that at first reading looks pretty good, although several weaknesses are apparent. It doesn't specify the number of public access channels that will be available; it provides free channels for use by government and educational institutions only for a limited time. This one will require considerable study but has great potential. Introduced by James Coates. To Economic Development Committee.

- A BILL outlawing the ownership of pistols and shotguns in the city. Rifles would have to be licensed. This is a very important bill. Introduced by John Wilson.

- A BILL to control security deposits from tenants. This attempts to get at some of the major abuses. Among other things it would limit the amount of deposit required, require payment of interest, require prompt repayment of deposits and provide other protection. Introduced by John Wilson. To Housing & Urban Development Committee.

- A BILL to repeal the Food and Drug Sales Tax. Very desirable. Introduced by David Clarke and others. To budget and finance committees.

- A BILL to authorize use of public space under Dupont Circle for commercial purposes. This measure is desirable although at the present time the bill does not spell out how the city will receive proper payment for the use of this space. To Economic Development Committee.

- A BILL to limit RLA's land holdings, prohibit it from taking usable housing units and similar restrictions. Introduced by John Wilson. To Housing Committee.

- A BILL to remove invidious discrimination in terminology used in the DC code concerning men and women. Introduced by Polly Shackleton. To Government Operations Committee.

#### QUESTIONABLE BILLS

- A BILL to expand the application of the anti-vendor regulations to other parts of town such as Near NE and Far SE. The present vending restrictions are designed to protect larger commercial establishments from competition from smaller street merchants. This flies in the face of all the city claims it wants to do to help local economic independence. Doug Moore says he intends to introduce legislation that will protect vendors, adding: "I think if it is going to be a free enterprise system it ought to be a free enterprise system. We must protect those who would rather sell than steal." The present bill has been introduced by James Coates. To the Economic Development Committee.

## Jack's back, alack

Jack Nevius was confirmed last month as a member of the Zoning Commission despite overwhelming public testimony against him. As chairman of the lame duck zoning commission that went out of business last year, Nevius led the commission in turning over the major tracts in Georgetown, the West End and Capitol Hill to developers. Faced with the public criticism of Nevius's nomination, his friends in the Board of Trade and the Central Labor Council quickly organized a post-hearing letter writing that offended some members of the council but may have influenced others.

As the council prepared to vote Nevius's confirmation, Polly Shackleton pointed out that the "issue is whether we make a mockery of citizen views. Seventeen people appeared at the hearing and none supported the nominee. Why would anyone want to testify again?"

When the vote came, only council members Dixon, Hardy, Hobson and Winter stood with Ms. Shackleton against Nevius. Barry declined to vote, arguing that he didn't know enough about the issue. Said Barry, "A number of friends of mine have called me on both sides of the question. The nominee in question has paid his dues, but we cannot ignore the record." He didn't say which friends supported Nevius.

David Clarke, who at times seems uncertain as to whether he is in a council chamber or a courtroom, voted for Nevius, falling back on the argument that the power to confirm does not permit a legislative body to make a judgement on a nominee's politics. But as another lawyer pointed out, even the Senate only follows this hallowed principle until it finds a nominee it really doesn't want. To those who believe that the legislative branch of government should be an equal partner with the executive, taking political philosophy and actions into consideration seems not only permissible but desirable.

John Wilson's reason for supporting Nevius was that he had answered fully all the questions asked him by council members while Walter Lewis, another nominee who subsequently was elected chairman of the new commission, had ducked them. (Wilson, to his credit, joined Hobson in opposing the uninspired choice of Lewis). Said Wilson of Nevius, "Whatever Mr. Nevius did it sure weren't all his fault."

Doug Moore, however, had the most creative excuse. He said he was for Nevius because he believed in protecting minority rights. It wasn't clear which minority he was looking after--whites or developers, but it must have been the latter since all of the former who testified publicly were against the Nevius nomination.

## Flowmaster Dugas

AT this writing it is still unclear who will win the monumental Flow of Information Battle (that's FIB for short) between the city council on the one hand and city administrator Julian Dugas on the other. The mayor attempted to con the council into accepting the idea that all requests for information be funnelled through Dugas and Dugas himself showed up to promise the council in his best poor country boy drawl that he was its "humble servant."

William Spaulding put the new system to its first test by trying to get in touch with the city administrator to talk about changing the system. Spaulding, who is chairman of the council's administrative and personnel committee, described some of his troubles in a memo to the council:

"The Council Secretary was uncessful in arranging the meeting at my instruction, and was advised by Mr. Dugas that a meeting was not necessary as he had approved a memorandum that would deal with the matter adequately. . ."

Later Spaulding notes: "I placed a personal call to the city administrator on Friday, seeking a meeting to discuss my reactions and the inadequacy of the memo from the Special Assistant for Legislation [Judith Rogers]. . .Mr. Dugas has not returned my call. However, a member of Mrs. Rogers' staff called to inquire as to the subject to be discussed with Mr. Dugas." So much for the mayor's promise that council requests directed through the city administrator would be "promptly and appropriately met."

Part of the council's distress stems from the intransigence of our old friend, Joseph Yeldell, who seems to think he is running a classified department of human resources. Several council members, for example, have complained that they have not been able to see a copy of a massive report on child care, details of which were recently revealed in the Gazette.

Further, when it came time to review the mayor's supplemental budget request, where was the Dept. of Human Resources? Yeldell was taking care of his sick wife; which is fair enough -- but where were his aides. According to Dugas, only Yeldell could answer the questions of the council.

The Gazette would like to help and therefore offers to any member of the city council desiring one, an official DC Gazette press card. With it, members may be able to do what they are not now permitted: to ask any city official what the hell is going on. Occasionally, you even get an answer.



## KEY VOTES

The City Council took three key votes last month, the most important of which being the vote to confirm John Nevius as a member of the Zoning Commission. Here's how the council members voted. To help give an idea of where Walter Washington stands on all this, we've added him to the list, scoring him only on issues where he has taken a clear stand or has signed or vetoed a particular bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER	VOTE #4	VOTE #5	VOTE #6	CUMULATIVE + - A NV %
Marion Barry	+	-	NV	1-3-1-1 17%
David Clarke	+	-	-	2-4-0-0 33%
James Coates	+	-	-	1-5-0-0 17%
Arrington Dixon	-	-	+	2-4-0-0 33%
Willie Hardy	+	-	+	3-3-0-0 50%
Julius Hobson	-	+	+	2-4-0-0 33%
Doug Moore	+	-	-	1-5-0-0 17%
Jerry Moore	A	-	-	1-4-1-0 17%
Polly Shackleton	+	-	+	3-3-0-0 50%
William Spaulding	NV	-	-	0-4-0-2 0%
Sterling Tucker	-	-	-	0-6-0-0 0%
John Wilson	A	+	-	1-4-1-0 17%
Nadine Winter	+	-	+	2-4-0-0 33%
Walter Washington*	-	-	-	0-3 0%

\*Scored on the basis of nominations made, bills signed or vetoed.

VOTE #4: Nomination of William Harps to Bd. of Equalization & Review. (+ = opposition)

VOTE #5: Nomination of Walter Lewis to Zoning Commission. (+ = opposition)

VOTE #6: Nomination of John Nevius to Zoning Commission. (+ = opposition)

VOTING SYSTEM: + = vote that agrees with our position. - = vote that doesn't agree with our position. (Switch signs if you don't agree with our position). A = absent. NV = present but not voting. Cumulative record for year is shown at right.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**METRO IMPACT HEARINGS:** To consider the environmental impact of alternative alignments for the rail line between Columbia Heights and Prince George's Plaza. March 10, 730 pm, Roosevelt H.S., 13th & Upshur NW. And March 11, 730 pm, Backus Jr. H.S., South Dakota Ave. & Hamilton NE.

## METRO FARE HEARINGS

The very important hearings on Metro's plan to up rush hour fares to 50¢ with 25¢ additional per 3-mile zone and an off-peak fare of 40¢ plus 20¢ per 3-mile zone will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, March 25, Commerce Dept. Auditorium, 730 pm.

Wednesday, March 26, Woodson H.S., 56th & Eads NE, 730 pm.

To get on the witness list, write Delmer Ison, Metro, 600 5th St. NW, DC 20001. Infomation can be obtained by calling 637-1050.

**HOMEBUYERS CHECKLIST:** The National Homebuyers and Homeowners Assn. has a booklet called the Homebuyer's Checklist, available in English and Spanish from them at 1225 19th NW, DC 20036. It's \$1.

**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH BOOK SALE:** March 7 11-2, March 8, 10-4 at Conn. and Bancroft NW. On sale will be paperbacks for ten to twenty-five cents along with books at higher prices.

**WOMENS CREDIT UNION:** The Washington Area Feminist Credit Union has been opened at the Washington Area Women's Center. The credit union is being supported by local chapters of NOW, the DC chapter of the National Black Feminist Organization and the Women's Center. Women can become members of the credit union by joining one of these groups and then purchasing a five dollar share. Info: 232-5145. The credit union is located at 2452 18th St. NW.

**HYPERTENSION RESEARCH PROGRAM:** Started by the Community Health Foundation at its Upper Cardozo Neighborhood Health Center, 3308 14th St. NW. Persons with high blood pressure who might be interested in enrolling in this program can call 265-2100, ext 202 or 246 for info.

## LOW INCOME RATES

If you earn less than \$7500 a year you may subscribe or renew to the Gazette for only \$2.50 a year. Use the form below:

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DC 20002

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSIDAD BORICUA:** A new post-secondary school center for Spanish speaking people that has been operating in New York City has now started operations in DC. This is a free-form university without walls. More information can be obtained by calling 667-7940. The center is located at 1766 Church St. NW.

**BLACK ADOPTION DRIVE:** A major recruitment drive for black adoptive parents has been launched and will run through the end of this month. Honorary leader of the drive is Willie Hardy. As part of the campaign a tristate adoption exchange is being launched. A list of children available for adoption along with photos will be available. A 24-hour telephone service is being established and group meetings are being scheduled. For more info call 347-1999.

**COUNCILMAN DIXON OPENS OFFICE:** Arrington Dixon has opened a Ward Four office at 806 Upshur NW which will be open every day from noon to 8 pm except Sunday. Telephone is 726-2222.

**GROCERY GUIDE:** Weekly comparison of 120 items in local food markets. Six month subscription for \$9 from PO Box 794, Courthouse Station, Arlington, Va. 22201.

**ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE:** Begins at 7th & Constitution Ave. NW and proceeds to the Ellipse beginning at 2 pm on March 16. Scheduled are floats, bands, Irish dancers and bagpipes.

**HEARINGS ON NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY:** The first council hearings in several years on this subject will be held on March 6 in the council chambers. Witnesses are asked to address testimony to one of more of the following issues:

- Availability of housing, suitability for persons suffering physical handicaps and accessibility to transportation, shopping and community facilities.
  - Adequacy of health care programs.
  - Transportation needs
  - Adequacy of public income maintenance programs.
  - Employment opportunities.
  - Recreational opportunities.
- Persons wishing to testify should contact Bobbi Blok at 628-2223 by March 4. Persons may also submit statements to the council secretary for inclusion in the hearing record by sending them to the council prior to March 14.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL 3:** Meets March 6 at 730 pm in Tenley Library to

## Classifieds

*Classified ads are 10¢ a word payable in advance. Deadline is the third Tuesday of the month. Send ad with check to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002*

**STERLING FLATWARE.** 21 new pieces. Mary Warren by Manchester. \$175. Similar Graham Fairfax. 389-2506.

**DRIVEWAY PARKING SPACE** for rent. 625 South Carolina Avenue. \$20.00 a month. Call 638-3965.

nominate officers. Meeting on March 26 (same time and place) will vote on proposals for next summer's projects.

**WOW OPEN HOUSE:** Washington Opportunities for Women, which has been providing career counselling for women for the past eight years, will hold an open house on March 3 from 10 am to 2 pm. WOW is losing its Labor Dept. funding and is switching to a fee basis for its services effective March 3.

**SEX THERAPY WORKSHOP:** A clinical workshop on sex therapy and counseling will be offered by American University during the week of March 13-17. National experts will direct sessions which can earn participants three college credits in sex therapy. Fee for credit is \$273; non-credit fee is \$150. Info: 686-2523.

**ACTION RECONCILIATION:** That's the name of a German volunteer placement organization. Greg Harpest Brown, Washington coordinator, will talk about this group at Zacchaeus House at 7 pm on March 2. A pot-luck supper will precede the talk at the House, located at 1329 N NW. Info: 265-7559.

**FOOD STAMP HOTLINE:** Established to answer questions about food stamps. Call 232-6377 any day from 9 am to 830 pm.

**HISTORY OF CHEVY CHASE:** The Neighborhood Planning Council has just published a history of the Chevy Chase area written by neighborhood youth. For a copy send \$1.50 to the Neighborhood Planning Council, Room 102A, Wilson H.S., DC 20016.

**HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CLASSES:** A new program to help students get their high school equivalency diploma has been started by the Washington Saturday College at the PEPCO Center, 2244 10th NW. A class is currently underway but for information on future classes write the college at the center.

## AD RATES

\$2 per column inch  
\$22.50 per quarter page  
\$45.00 per half page  
\$90.00 per page

Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready. Commercial classifieds: 10¢ a word.

## LOW ANNUAL RATES

Advertising in the Gazette is an inexpensive way of reaching 3000 active consumers. Check out the low annual rates for commercial notices:

One column by 1" = \$18.50  
One column by 2" = \$37.00  
One column by 3" = \$56.00

That's for a whole year. The only condition is that ads must be camera-ready and the entire amount must be paid with the ad.

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NEIGHBORS INC. CABARET: Sat Mar 8 10 pm - 2 am. Tifereth Israel Congregation, 7701 16th NW. Info: Dutchess Margerum at 829-4036.

FREE TAX SERVICE ON HILL: Sponsored by Capitol Hill Group Ministry for low & moderate income people. Tue & Thur 7-9 pm Lincoln Park Methodist Church, 1301 N.C. Ave. NE. 544-8150.

ALTERNATIVE LIFE STYLES WORKSHOPS: Explores the implications, pleasures & problems associated with bisexuality, homosexuality, open marriage and communal living. April 18-19. \$35. Contact Emily Day, 298-9227. Held at Women's Medical Center, 1712 Eye NW, Suite 700.

NEW BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: To be started next year at Catholic U. Bachelor's degree with specialization in financial management, quantitative management or managerial relations. Most classes to be held in the evening. Info: Dr. Alexander Woroniak, Dept. of Economics and Business and Management, Catholic U, DC 20064, 635-5236.

LIGHTSHIP CHESAPEAKE: You and your children will enjoy a personal tour of this old Coast Guard lightship built in 1930 and now used as a sea scout and environmental teaching center. Located at Haynes Point and open weekends in the afternoon, tours are conducted by sea scouts. Included is a display of some of the equipment used to monitor pollution in the Potomac River. (426-6897).

CITY PARTISAN: It's a new free paper being distributed in the Dupont Circle/Connecticut Avenue area, the first issue of which featured among other things a couple of interesting articles on local history by Perry Fischer. Mail subscriptions are \$5 available from room 428, 1825 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Telephone 332-5830.

WOMEN VOTERS WHITE ELEPHANT SALE: Mar 15 and 16. Ten to four on Saturday and one to four on Sunday. Items for sale are requested now. You can bring them to the rear of 3619 Everett NW any Wednesday from ten to four or Friday from one to four. Pickup service: call Mary Drob at 244-3369. The sale will be held at Irma Whipple's house, 3619 Everett. Proceeds to the DC League of Women Voters.

LINDEN PLACE NE CRISIS: If you want to help the fight against real estate speculation on Linden Place NE that has recently been publicized in the local media, contact Ms. Carmichael at 397-3229 or Marianne Josem at 547-8880.

WARD SIX SCHOOL MEETINGS: John Warren, the Ward Six member of the School Board, is holding monthly meetings in the ward. They take place the third Monday of each month at various locations. To find out where the next one will be call 225-0576.

SURVEY FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED: A survey of facilities in the Washington area to determine their accessibility to the handicapped is currently being made by the Information Center for Handicapped Children. Volunteers are needed. 347-4986.

AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PLANS BOYCOTT: The boycott is against four corporations that have invested in South Africa. The four are Control Data, IBM, ITT and Motorola. The area council has urged others to join it in the boycott. Info: 638-1077

BOARD OF ELECTIONS SETS MEETINGS: The Board of Elections will hold its regular meetings on the last Wednesday of the month in the afternoon.

JEWISH COFFEEHOUSE: The Wholly Bagel Coffeehouse is taking place every other Sunday evening at 2121 Decatur Place NW. Writes Ken Giles of the Tzedek Tzedek collective which runs the program, "We didn't want to be just a speakers' bureau. We wanted something that people could count on and something that would be fun. Serving bagels and cream cheese along with humus and flat bread, we could raise the idea of Jewish-Arab reconciliation even in our food. Our speakers have included Paul Jacobs, journalist and filmmaker who's traveled widely in Arab countries; Cheryl Moch, an organizer of the Jewish Feminist Organization; Dan Zwerdling, a consumer advocate who writes on nutrition education and Marie Nahikian, a community organizer and Washington editor of the new Harper's Weekly." To find out more about the coffeehouse and the collective, write Ken at 1713 Hobart St. NE, 20009.

LANDMARKS HEARING: Friday, March 7 in the Conference Room of the NCPC, 1325 G NW at 10 am. To consider adding the following to the list of historic landmarks: Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Tregaron, Dunbar H.S., Old Engine Co. 6 (438 Mass. NW), Mt. Zion Cemetery, National Council of Negro Women's HQ, Mary Church Terrell House (326 T NW), Bruce House (909 M NW) National Benefit Assn. Bldg. (609 F NW) YMCA (Bowen Branch, 1816 12th NW), Ralph Bunche House, 1510 Jackson NE, Washington Elks Lodge #15 (919 H NW), Brooks Mansion, (901 Newton NE). Copies of the applications can be studied at the office of the Joint Committee on Landmarks (which will hold the hearing) at the NCPC headquarters.

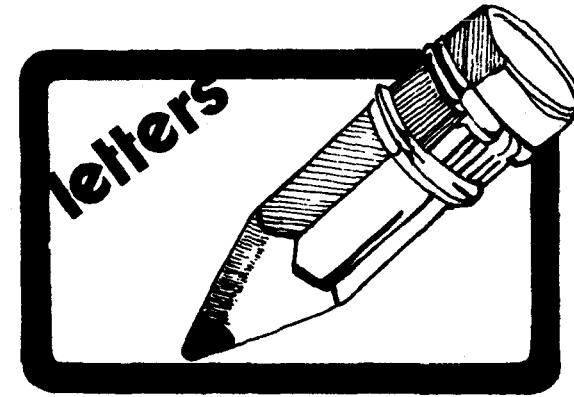
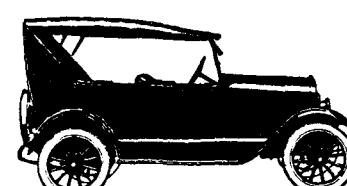
VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARK: The National Park Service is looking for people to serve as volunteers at their various centers. VIPs can work as little as an hour a week or on an intermittent basis. For information on present needs of the Park Service call Carol Lee at 426-6770.

CITY TITLE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: University of Maryland, March 9. Tickets will be available through local high schools and at Ticketron offices.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL: Sponsored by Tifereth Israel Sisterhood, April 27, 11-5. To reserve display space call 681-9408 or 593-5665.

RAPE CENTER GETS AID: The Rape Crisis Center has received a grant from the Meyer Foundation to help run its hotline and provide other services. The center's number, open 9 to 9 is 333-RAPE. Mailing address: PO Box 21005. . . . The District government has also established a rape hotline, which will be in service 24 hours a day. The number is 626-RAPE.

SWP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SPEAKS: Peter Camejo, the Socialist Workers Party 1976 presidential candidate, will speak on "A Bill of Rights for Working People" on March 1, 8 pm, at the Militant Forum, 1345 E NW. Also featured will be Nan Bailey, 1974 SWP candidate for mayor. Info: 347-1317.



#### BLAMING THE VICTIM

Please urge the middle-class readers of your paper to read William Ryan's "Blaming the Victim." Ryan makes the main point in the introduction: "I have now come to believe that the ideology of Blaming the Victim so distorts and disorients the thinking of the average concerned citizen that it becomes a primary barrier to effective social change. And, further, I believe that the injustices and inequalities in American life can never be understood (and, therefore, can never be eliminated) until that ideology is exposed and destroyed."

ROBERT W. LEISINGER

#### TROLLEY BUSES, TOO

Your transit discussion in the February issue — a very well-considered article — ignored one other device that has been forgotten here: the trolley bus. Flexible as the autobus, silent, non-polluting, with over seventy years of experience behind it. Still in use in both hemispheres. The only inflexibility is its inability to pass around a stopped unit. No worse than a streetcar or a subway train, however. Leeds, in England, was operating double-deckers as far back as 1903.

LEONARD C. RENNIE

343 new trolley buses have been ordered by San Francisco and 50 by Boston. — Ed.

Despite new buses, new routes and fast rising deficits, Metrobus ridership grew only 2.3% in 1974. There was a 12% increase in service. While there was virtually no increase in ridership in DC and Montgomery County, ridership in PG County went up 16% and in Northern Va. it went up 8%. Metro can't explain the variation in ridership patterns. Overall, however, the figures strongly suggest that Metro's free-spending approach is not the answer. For another approach, see last month's Gazette.

DC officials are in for harder times before the Senate DC Appropriations Subcommittee. The new chairman is Lawton Chiles who has a reputation as a fiscal conservative. One Senate aide told the Star-News: "When I heard the new alignment this morning, I said to myself, 'Wow, things just aren't going to be the same for [DC officials] any more.' They're not going to be able to come up here and get what they ask for willy nilly."

Over 200 black publishers were in town recently for a meeting but failed to get any attention in the local press. Even President Ford and five cabinet members met with them, but not the Post and Star-News.

## flotsam & jetsam

**A**MONG the social notes of last month is an item from Texas telling of the meeting between John B. Connally and our president. Asked by reporters how he justified conferring privately for forty-five minutes with Connally, who is under indictment on charges of bribery and perjury, the ever ingenuous Ford replied, "He is a very knowledgeable public servant."

To some, a meeting between the indictee and he who presumably runs the Justice Department that got him indicted may seem surprising, even a bit shocking. But not to me. I read Betty Beale.

Betty Beale is the most enjoyable bad writer in town; apparently the only person in the country to remain unaffected by the events or implications of Watergate. Reading her in today's US is like browsing through "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" in the midst of a Led Zeppelin concert. I wouldn't miss her.

Some days before the Connally-Ford exchange, I had become aware, thanks to Miss Beale's Star-News column, that things were looking up for the Connallys. She reported:

*"John Connally never looked better. He's trimmed down and he's relaxed," said Ken Crosby upon returning from a weekend in Houston. The Connallys and the Alan Shepards — he is now in the banking business there — were among those invited to the Robert Herrings' dinner at the Petroleum Club for Swedish Ambassador and Countess Wachtmeister. Nellie Connally also looked wonderful, according to Crosby who said, in fact they were the life of the party. Everybody down there still loves them and supports them, he added.*

The item is classic Beale. But before you laugh — scratch out the cliches, pass over her unflagging loyalty to ancient regimes of every variety, and you'll find a unique piece of reportage. Miss Beale writes about the people in power for people in power with the assurance that a sizable number of others will eavesdrop. Half courtier, half correspondent, she does openly what the better part of the Washington press corps does covertly — she fawns over power. She is Joseph Kraft come in out of the cold, Scotty Reston over drinks, a lay Hugh Sidey, James Kilpatrick with his tie off, Evans & Novak without Oliver Quayle. The rest of the press may ignore Connally as one more politician down on his luck, but Betty Beale knows better. She knows how power works and who still rates a presidential visit.

Her journalistic peers can continue to file broad tales about the impact of Watergate on the nation's capital, but for her story Miss Beale trots over to a small dinner dance at Dan Hofgren's ("who quit the White House while things were still rosey and is now at Goldman Sachs & Co.") given for former White House social secretary Nancy Lammerding and "her betrothed, Nicholas Ruwe, scion of a wealthy Grosse Pointe family," where she finds life truckin' along despite the late indiscretions. Among the guests were "Dwight Chapin, who now works for Clement Stone and will hear this Friday the results of his perjury appeal. . ." And speaking of Clem and Dwight, whatever happened to old Pat? Betty Beale found him there — "Pat Buchanan, the speechwriter, who wrote a memo to his boss to burn the tapes when he learned about them. If he had known what was in them he would have kept after Nixon to destroy them, he said. Pat, who has lost about 20 pounds, begins his syndicated column March 1." Apparently, Watergate has been wonderful for the diet.

Then there was "Ronald Walker, Nixon's chief advance man who became director of the National Park Service and who said he and his wife were just back from a vacation in Florida where they saw something of Bebe Rebozo. Walker is now in the process of deciding on a new job." And there was Rose Mary Woods, "the devoted Nixon secretary." And Henry Leslie Cashen, another socialite from Grosse Pointe: "Cashen, one of the young White House lawyers who was untainted by Watergate, left the administration before the second term to go into law practice with Chuck Colson." Untainted and unenlightened it would seem.

Until 3:30 am, there was dancing to the "mad, marvelous rhythms of Mike Carney. . . Watergate was a thing of the past. The fun and the Hofgrens's Georgetown house had simply become a part of the regular Washington scene."

Betty Beale is not making this stuff up. She may be Rebecca but there really is a Sunnybrook Farm, aka federal Washington. The daylight charades that obscure the attitude and philosophy of the official city fade with a couple of highballs and Miss Beale faithfully takes you where Peter Lisagor's press pass won't get him — into the hearts and minds of the people who

run our country. It's not a pretty picture in aggregate, but after viewing it one quickly loses any astonishment over the official placidity in the face of depression-level unemployment. Try to find in one of Miss Beale's columns a person expressing concern over any human problem and you'll be disappointed. The serious is trivialized, the improper is excused, the critics are turned aside. At the center of power, as Miss Beale dutifully records, are individuals incredibly insensitive to the traumas of the rest of America, resolute in their prejudices, arrogant, isolated and indifferent. Drawing their black limos in a circle around the embassy of the evening, they hoist a toast to themselves knowing that when whatever is happening is over, they will still be running things.

Some years ago, the local papers did away with their society pages. The hack social writers were dropped. Maxine Cheshire moved away from writing such things as "Tammy Grimes, wearing the only short dress of the evening and sans stockings came with mouth open and tongue in cheek" to doing more serious gossip coverage that still only gets her occasionally into Style. And headlines like that wonderful Times medical bulletin: "Kidney Patients To Be Assisted by Dec. 29 Ball" dropped from sight. But Miss Beale remained and with her our one sure link to the Washington society that refused to die simply because the papers chose to turn their probes towards the society of movie stars and cult leaders rather than that of local matrons.

The papers may have overreacted. Ignoring the parties didn't make them go away or make them any less a source on how federal Washington works. Knowing John Brademas's ADA voting record is one thing; reading Betty Beale describe his reaction to "Chic to Sheik," the Public Broadcasting documentary on Washington social life, is another:

*"John Brademas, the bachelor congressman who was shown in the "Chic to Sheik" segment. . . was as disgusted as anyone with the obvious intent of that segment — a put-down of social Washington. He was familiar, he said, with the 'counter-culture' approach of the San Francisco group which produced the show."*

It helps to know what disgusts our liberal congressmen. Fortunately, Betty Beale cares.

Beale, who appeared on the show, complained that the TV program missed "catching the essence of the big scene here — i.e. the nightly mingling in a handsome setting of the people with the power." Betty is on the scene because mad, marvelous Betty Beale knows that power doesn't quit at sunset and that to much of official Washington, happiness is an ex parte conversation. How right she is.

SAM SMITH



## Annual Poll Time

IT'S NEARING time for the annual Gazette poll and this year we're going to do things a little different. Our open-ended questions have produced such a wide range of responses that we never got as good a reflection of reader sentiment as we had hoped. This year we will nominate a list of potential winners and losers. You'll still be able to name your own choice or mark "none of the above." But to make our nominations as fair as possible, we'd like suggestions from readers in the following categories. Please suggest people or institutions that might win broad support but which we might have missed:

- Individuals and institutions who have done the most for the city in the past year.
- Individuals and institutions that have done the least for the city in the past year.
- Outstanding individuals and institutions in the local media.
- Outstanding individuals and institutions in the local arts.
- Best play seen locally in the last year.
- Best movie in the last year.
- Best book of the past year.
- Best local restaurant.

Send your nominations to the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002 by March 17.

P.S.

15



Ford and friends. Left to right: Harry Harrison [George's father], Billy Preston, George Harrison,

President Ford, Jack Ford [the President's son], Ravi Shankar and Tom Scott.



[Council member] Wilson told a reporter that since the Star-News story he has received as many as thirty telephone calls threatening his life. "They say something to the effect of 'If you come into our neighborhood, we'll take care of you.'" He stressed that he has received just as many supporting his [gun control] proposal.—STAR-NEWS

Yeah, but will they be there when he needs them?

THE BOARD  
OF UPPER NW  
EDUCATION

Doug Moore claims that 53% of those affected by higher education in the city live in NE and SE but that no one on the Board of Higher Education lives in these areas. In fact, two members live on the same street: Argyle Terrace NW.

UTILITY  
COSTS HERE  
ARE HIGH

A study issued by the Labor Department in September found that DC was 3rd of 21 cities in the price paid for gas, 5th in the price for electricity and 5th in the price paid for fuel oil. For example, gas cost \$10.37 per 40 therms here while only \$7.63 in Detroit and \$5.36 in Cincinnati.



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